

In the Claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A VPO catalyst of the general formula:



a = 0.1-2.5
b = 0-3.0, in particular 0.001-3.0
c = 0.1-10
d = depends on the valency of the other elements
e = 5-100 (% by weight)
f = 95-0 (% by weight), in particular 95-5 with the provision that b and f are not simultaneously 0

X = Cr, Mo, W, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Zn or Nb
Y = cyclic nitrogen compound,
Z = SiO₂, Al₂O₃, ZrO₂ or TiO₂ or their mixtures,
manufactured in accordance with a method in which one carries out the following steps:

- a) converting V₂O₅ and concentrated phosphoric acid in an organic medium under reflux conditions,
- b) separating off catalyst precursor that forms and optionally
- c) drying at 80 to 140°C,
- d) impregnating the optionally dried catalyst precursor with an aqueous or alcoholic solution of the metal X, with X having the significance quoted above,
- e) separating off excess solution,
- f) drying and calcining the impregnated material, and
- g) optionally forming the catalyst obtained.

2. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst contains SiO₂, Al₂O₃, ZrO₂ or TiO₂ or their mixtures as a support.

3. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the catalyst contains 0.01 to 5 % by weight of an organic cyclic nitrogen compound.

4. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the catalyst contains as the nitrogen compound a compound selected from the group pyridine, quinoline, pyridazine, pyrimidine, and pyrazine.

5. (Original) The VPO catalyst in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the catalyst contains 3-methylpyridine as the nitrogen compound.

6. (Presently amended) A method of use manufacture of 3-cyanopyridine, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the a VPO catalyst of the general formula:

[V₁P_aX_b(Y)_cO_d]e[Z]_f, in which

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b = 0-3.0, in particular 0.001-3.0

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X = Cr, Mo, W, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Zn or Nb

Y = cyclic nitrogen compound,

Z = SiO₂, Al₂O₃, ZrO₂ or TiO₂ or their mixtures;

providing catalyst in accordance with claims 1 to 5 for the manufacture of 3-cyanopyridine by conversion of 3-methylpyridine;

providing with ammonia;

providing and oxygen;

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and combining the VPO catalyst, 3-methylpyridine, ammonia, and oxygen at temperatures up to 440°C.